

News from GRAYWOLF PRESS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LARS HORN WINS THE GRAYWOLF PRESS NONFICTION PRIZE FOR *VOICE OF THE FISH*

September 2, 2020—Graywolf Press is pleased to announce the latest winner of the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize: *Voice of the Fish* by Lars Horn, which was selected from more than 600 manuscripts by the Graywolf editors.



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Taking water and aquatic lifeforms as the thematic and formal starting point, *Voice of the Fish* combines personal essay, mythology, theology, and marine history to explore questions of the body—particularly, gender, sexuality, transmasculinity, and illness—as well as those of faith, the arts, and whiteness. Horn’s essays are linked by a consistent desire to interrogate liminal physicalities, explored through the experiences of travelling through Georgia and living in Russia as queer and transmasculine, visiting Kenya as white British, modelling in baths of dead squid for their mother’s photography projects, and lying bed-bound for six months, unable to speak. Inquisitive and exhilarating, *Voice of the Fish* seeks to reexamine the oft-presumed uniformity of bodily experience and instead, privileges ways of seeing and being that resist binaries.

“*Voice of the Fish* enthralled us with its oceanic admixture of fish and flesh,” said Graywolf Press Editor Steve Woodward, who coordinates the prize. “Lars Horn’s inventive approach to language and form seeks to transcend the limitations of the body, reaching toward the animal and vegetal for other modes of being. This is a daring book by an author whose memorable voice at once continues the tradition of the nonfiction prize and expands it. We’re thrilled to welcome Lars Horn and *Voice of the Fish* to the Graywolf list.”

“Living in a body I have difficulty recognizing as my own, a body I somehow perceive at disjoint from myself, I never thought that I might find some rough peace in these limbs. I definitely never thought that I would be able to write of myself – honestly, openly. To be seen,” said Horn. “I did not think I could win this prize. It comes unexpectedly, vitally. I am deeply grateful to Graywolf for this opportunity and their support. I am also grateful to everyone who helped me get here, I couldn’t have done it without you all.”

The Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize is designed to honor and encourage the art of literary nonfiction, and is given to an outstanding manuscript by an emerging author who has published no more than two previous books of nonfiction. The forthcoming prizewinner, Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint for *Names for Light* (formerly *Zat Lun*), will be published in August 2021. Previous winners of the prize include *New York Times* bestsellers *The Collected Schizophrenias* by Esmé Weijun Wang and *The Empathy Exams* by Leslie Jamison.

Initially specializing in Phenomenology and Visual Arts scholarship, **Lars Horn** holds MAs from the University of Edinburgh, the École normale supérieure, Paris, and Concordia University, Montreal. In 2016, they translated the publication *Ateliers & Studios* for The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. The recipient of a Sewanee Writers' Conference scholarship, and a finalist in the Summer Literary Seminars Contest and the *Malahat Review's* Open Season Awards, Horn's writing has appeared in the *Kenyon Review*, 'Write Across Canada: An Anthology of Emerging Writers,' *New Writing Scotland*, *Gutter Magazine*, and elsewhere. They split their time between Montreal and Miami, where they live with their partner, the writer, Jaquira Díaz.

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